

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 11, 21, 27, and 31 have been amended. No claims have been canceled, or added Claims 34 and 35 were previously canceled. Therefore, claims 1-33 and 36-39 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13-16, 20-25, 27-29, 31-32, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0046421), in view of Horvitz (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0087649) in further view of Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,230). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander.

Horvitz '421 discloses a system that provides controls and displays for acquiring user preferences, inspecting behavior, and guiding learning and decision policies of an adaptive communications prioritization and routing system. (See Horvitz '421 at ¶ [0007].) Horvitz '649 discloses a system and methodology for reducing disruption costs associated with notifying a user of messages, automated assistance, and/or alerts. (See Horvitz '649 at Abstract.) Alexander discloses a system for using calendar events for users of electronic calendaring systems to prepare customized responses to incoming events, where the response supplies information pertaining to the user. (See Alexander at Abstract.)

Amended claim 1 of the present application recites, in part:

resolving, by the digital assistant, the event without contacting the user if the level of importance of the event is greater than or equal to a first threshold and less than or equal to a second threshold, the resolving including the digital assistant using profile information of the user of the digital assistant, rules set by the user, technological obstacles, geographical obstacles, and any other previously attempted contacts act on its own to directly resolve the event on the user's behalf by taking action beyond generating an automated response to the information provider that originated the event and without having to contact the user or any other people to handle the event

Applicant submits that none of Horvitz '421, Horvitz '649, or Alexander, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests this feature. None of the prior art references speak to a digital assistant acting on its own to directly resolve an event on a user's behalf by taking action beyond generating an automated response to an information provider that originated the event and without having to contact the user or any other people to handle the event. Support for this amended feature can be found at paragraph [0041] of the present application. As none of Horvitz '421, Horvitz '649, or Alexander, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the cited feature of claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, is patentable over Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander.

Independent claims 11, 21, 27, and 31 recite limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Therefore, claims 11, 21, 27, and 31, as well as their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Horvitz '421, Horvitz '649, and Alexander for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2, 12, 37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz, in further view of Horvitz '649 and Alexander et al., in further

view of what was well known in the art. Applicant submits that the present claims all depend from one of the independent claims. As discussed above, the independent claims are patentable over Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander. What is well known in the art does not remedy the deficiencies of Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander as far as disclosing the claims of the present application. As a result, the present claims are also patentable over Horvitz '421, Horvitz '649, and Alexander, even in view of what is well known in the art.

Claims 7, 17, 26, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz, in view of Horvitz '649 and Alexander et al., in further view of Fisher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,896). Applicant submits that the present claims all depend from one of the independent claims. As discussed above, the independent claims are patentable over Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander. Fisher does not remedy the deficiencies of Horvitz '421 and Horvitz '649 in view of Alexander as far as disclosing the claims of the present application. As a result, the present claims are also patentable over Horvitz '421, Horvitz '649, and Alexander, even in view of Fisher.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.


Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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